Amendments to the Specification

Page 1, immediately after the title, please insert:

This application is a U.S. national stage of International Application No. PCT/JP2004/013760 filed September 21, 2004.

Page 11, line 24, please rewrite as follows:

Example [[1]]

Page 13, lines 3-24, please rewrite as follows:

After gene amplification, the reaction mixture was treated with a phenol/chloroform (1 : 1) mixture, to thereby yield a water-soluble fraction. To the water-soluble fraction, ethanol was added in a volume twice that of the fraction, to thereby precipitate DNA. The DNA collected through precipitation was subjected to separation by means of agarose gel electrophoresis according to the method described in literature ("Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual, Second Edition" (edited by Sambrook, *et al.*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, New York (1989))), to thereby purify DNA fragments having a size of 720 b. The DNA was cleaved with restriction enzymes NcoI and PstI, to thereby yield DNA fragments. The DNA fragments were ligated, by use of T4 DNA ligase, with plasmid pTrc99A which had likewise been digested with restriction enzymes ~~NcoH~~ NcoI and PstI. By use of the reaction mixture containing the thus-ligated DNA, *Escherichia coli* strain JM109 was transformed, and from the resultant ampicillin-resistant transformants, plasmid pTrcsiaBNP was isolated. pTrcsiaBNP has a structure in which a DNA fragment containing a structural gene of neuA gene has been inserted into the NcoI-PstI cleavage sites located downstream of the trc promoter of pTrc99A.